

1. (Amended) A method of inventory management comprises:

verifying that articles in a grouped order belong to the grouped order, wherein verifying further comprises:

examining codes on tags associated with each article in the group to determine that the article belongs in the group with examining further comprising:

indicating to an operator if the scanned unique sequential identification does not correspond to an item that belongs in the group.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein if the first item has been determined, the method further comprises:

determining a total number of articles in the group from the unique sequential identification of the first item.

9. (Amended) The method of claim [8] 1 wherein determining further comprises:
subtracting a base number from a portion of the unique sequential identification to provide the number of items in the group.

13. (Amended) A computer program product residing on a computer readable media for use in a dry cleaning establishment comprises instructions for causing a computer to:

verify that articles in a grouped order belong in the grouped order, wherein instructions to verify further comprise instructions to:

examine codes on tags associated with each article in the group to determine that the article belongs in the group, with instructions to examine further comprising instructions to:

indicate to an operator if the scanned unique sequential identification does not correspond to an item that belongs in the group.

20. (Amended) The computer program product of claim 19 wherein if the first item has been determined, the computer program product further comprises instructions to:

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determine [the] a total number of articles in the group from the unique sequential identification of the first item.

24. (Amended) An apparatus for verifying inventory grouping comprises:

a scanner to scan codes on labels;

a computer having a computer readable storage media storing a computer program product comprises instructions for causing the computer to:

verify that articles in a grouped order belong in the grouped order, wherein instructions to verify further comprise instructions to:

examine codes on tags associated with each article in the group to determine that the article belongs in the group, with instructions to examine further comprising instructions to:

indicate to an operator if the scanned unique sequential identification does not correspond to an item that belongs in the group.

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26. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 25 further comprising:

a printer to print tags having unique sequential identifications for affixing to the articles and/or an ticket or invoice.

Please add new claims 27-33.

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27. The method of claim 1 wherein examining further comprises:

scanning a ticket to retrieve the number of articles in the group or a specific permanent tags numbers in the group; and matching numbers scanned from permanent labels on the articles to either a group number or a permanent number associated with the permanent tags.

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